

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

first preparation means for preparing a first usage control status which identifies first usage details describing purchased rights and the pricing details corresponding to said first usage details;

storage means for storing said encrypted information, said first usage control status, a usage control policy that contains a second use type that describes the rights that can be purchased again based on the first usage details of said purchased rights, price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, and a the key needed to decrypt said encrypted information;

second preparation means for preparing a second usage control status that identifies said second usage details and ~~said~~ pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags, when rights are purchased again through said one or more other information processing apparatuses; and

sending means for sending, to said one or more other information processing apparatuses, said second usage control status prepared by said second preparation means as well as said encrypted information and said key stored on said storage means ~~to said other~~

~~information processing apparatuses.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising first execution means for executing a process to utilize said encrypted information, based on said second usage control status prepared by said second preparation means.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

third preparation means for preparing accounting information that corresponds to said first usage control status and said second usage control status; and

second execution means for executing an account settlement process to settle ~~the~~ amounts posted based on said accounting information prepared by said third preparation means.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized by~~ comprising the steps of:

a first preparation step of preparing a first usage control status which identifies first usage details describing purchased rights and ~~the~~ pricing details corresponding to said first usage details;

a storage step of storing said encrypted information, said first usage control status, a usage control policy that contains a second use type that describes the rights that can be purchased again based on said purchased rights, price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, and ~~the~~ a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information;

a second preparation step of preparing a second usage control status that identifies said second usage details and said pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags, when rights are purchased again through said one or more other information processing apparatuses; and

a sending step of sending said second usage control status prepared by said second preparation step as well as said encrypted information and said key stored by said storage step to said one or more other information processing apparatuses.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized in that the process~~ comprises comprising the steps of:

a first preparation step of preparing a first usage control status which identifies first usage details describing purchased rights and the pricing details corresponding to said first usage details;

a storage step of storing said encrypted information, said first usage control status,

a usage control policy that, contains a second use type that describes the rights that can be purchased again based on the details of said purchased rights, price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, and the a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information;

a second preparation step of preparing a second usage control status that identifies said second usage details and said pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags, when rights are purchased again through said one or more other information processing apparatuses; and

a sending step of sending said second usage control status prepared by said second preparation step as well as said encrypted information and said key stored by said storage step to said one or more other information processing apparatuses.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus, which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

receiving means for receiving, from said one or more other information processing apparatuses, said encrypted information, the a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information, and the usage control status which identifies said first usage details describing said first purchase rights as well as the first pricing details corresponding to said first usage details,

wherein said receiving means receives second usage details describing second purchase rights and second pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; and

execution means for executing the one or more processes needed to use said encrypted information based on said first and second usage details ~~rights described by said usage details identified by said usage control status.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, characterized by comprising the steps of:

a receiving step of receiving, from said one or more other information processing apparatuses, said encrypted information, ~~the~~ a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information, and ~~the~~ a usage control status which identifies said first usage details describing said first purchase rights as well as the first pricing details corresponding to said first usage details,

wherein said receiving step receives second usage details describing second purchase rights and second pricing details; and

an execution step of executing the one or more processes needed to use said encrypted information based on said first and second usage details ~~rights described by said usage details identified by said usage control status.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): A providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases

rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized in that the process~~
~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

a receiving step of receiving, from said one or more other information processing
apparatuses, said encrypted information, ~~the~~ a key needed to decrypt said encrypted
information, and ~~the~~ a usage control status which identifies said first usage details
describing said first purchased rights as well as the first pricing details corresponding to
said first usage details,

wherein said receiving step receives second usage details describing second
purchase rights and second pricing details; and

an execution step of executing ~~the~~ one or more processes needed to use said
encrypted information based on said first and second usage details ~~rights described by said~~
~~usage details identified by said usage control status.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus, which is connected to
one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to
decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized by comprising:~~

storage means for storing said encrypted information, a usage control policy that
contains ~~the~~ usage details that describe purchasable rights, price tags that contain ~~the~~
pricing details corresponding to said usage details, and ~~the~~ a key needed to decrypt said
encrypted information;

preparation means for preparing a usage control status which identifies said usage
details and the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, based on said usage

control policy and said price tags stored on said storage means; and

sending means for sending said usage control status prepared by said preparation means as well as said encrypted information and said key stored on said storage means to said one or more other information processing apparatuses when the rights are purchased again by said one or more other information processing apparatuses.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, characterized by comprising the steps of:

a storage step of storing said encrypted information, a usage control policy that contains the usage details that describe purchasable rights, price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, and ~~the~~ a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information;

a preparation step of preparing a usage control status which identifies said usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored ~~on~~ during said storage step; and

a sending step of sending said usage control status prepared by said preparation step as well as said encrypted information and said key stored ~~on~~ during said storage step to said one or more other information processing apparatuses when the rights are purchased again by said one or more other information processing apparatuses.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized in that the process~~ comprises comprising the steps of:

a storage step of storing said encrypted information, a usage control policy that contains the usage details that describe purchasable rights, price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, and ~~the~~ a key needed to decrypt said encrypted information;

a preparation step of preparing a usage control status which identifies said usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored ~~on~~ during said storage step; and

a sending step of sending said usage control status prepared by said preparation step as well as said encrypted information and said key stored ~~on~~ during said storage step to said one or more other information processing apparatuses when the rights are purchased again by said one or more other information processing apparatuses.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus, which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized by comprising:~~

receiving means for receiving, from said one or more other information processing

apparatuses, said encrypted information, ~~the~~ a key ~~needed~~ adapted to decrypt said encrypted information, and ~~the~~ a first usage control status which identifies ~~the~~ a first use type describing predetermined rights and the pricing details corresponding to said first use type;

storage means for storing a usage control policy that contains ~~the~~ second usage details that describe ~~the~~ rights that can be purchased again based on ~~said rights described by said first usage details identified by said~~ first usage control status ~~received by said receiving means,~~ and price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; and

first preparation means for preparing a second usage control status which identifies said second usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored by said storage means.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

second preparation means for preparing accounting information that corresponds to said second usage control status prepared by said first preparation means; and

execution means for executing an account settlement process to settle ~~the~~ amounts posted based on said accounting information prepared by said second preparation means.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing

apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information,
~~characterized by comprising the steps of:~~

a receiving step of receiving, from said one or more other information processing apparatuses, said encrypted information, ~~the~~ a key needed adapted to decrypt said encrypted information, and ~~the~~ a usage control status which identifies ~~the~~ a first use type describing predetermined rights and the pricing details corresponding to said first use type;

a storage step of storing a usage control policy that contains ~~the~~ second usage details that describe ~~the~~ rights that can be purchased again based on said first use type ~~rights described by said first usage details identified by said usage control status received by said receiving step,~~ and price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; and

a first preparation step of preparing a second usage control status which identifies said second usage details and ~~the~~ pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored ~~by~~ during said storage step.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A providing medium, which provides a computer-readable program for executing a process to an information processing apparatus which is connected to one or more other information processing apparatuses and which purchases rights to decrypt and use encrypted information, ~~characterized in that the process comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

a receiving step of receiving, from said one or more other information processing

apparatuses, said encrypted information, ~~the~~ a key adapted ~~needed~~ to decrypt said encrypted information, and ~~the~~ a first usage control status which identifies ~~the~~ a first use type describing predetermined rights and the pricing details corresponding to said first use type;

a storage step of storing a usage control policy that contains ~~the~~ second usage details that describe the rights that can be purchased again based on ~~said rights described by said first usage details~~ use type ~~identified by said usage control status received by said receiving step,~~ and price tags that contain the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details; and

a first preparation step of preparing a second usage control status which identifies said second usage details and the pricing details corresponding to said second usage details, based on said usage control policy and said price tags stored ~~by~~ during said storage step.

Claim 16 (new): A method for modifying a price associated with content comprising the steps of:

providing a first price associated with particular content;

utilizing, at a first occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one or more reception locations;

providing a second price associated with the particular content as a function of the utilizing step;

utilizing, at a second occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one

or more reception locations; and

generating billing information as a function of the first price and the second price.

Claim 17 (new): The method according to claim 16, wherein the second price is less than the first price.

Claim 18 (new): The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of decrypting the particular content at the one or more reception locations.

Claim 19 (new): An apparatus for modifying a price associated with content comprising:

means for providing a first price associated with particular content;

means for utilizing, at a first occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one or more reception locations;

means for providing a second price associated with the particular content as a function of the means for utilizing;

means for utilizing, at a second occurrence, at least a portion of the particular content at one or more reception locations; and

means for generating billing information as a function of the first price and the second price.

Claim 20 (new): The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the second price is less than the first price.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising means for decrypting the particular content at the one or more reception locations.